normal radioactivity level in sea water it about 15 Bq/litre. There is, therefore, no question of any danger to the people or the environment on account of this incident.

(c) The design of all our atomic power plants follows the highest safety standards to preclude leak of radioactivity to the environment. The radiation levels in the environment surrounding the plants are subjected to continuous monitoring by environmental Survey Laboratories to keep a watch on the release of radioactivity. The release of effluents from the operating power plants in the country are governed by the permissible limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board which are as per international standards. The actual releases of effluents from nuclear power plants are monitored by independent Environmental Survey Laboratories and are kept within the safe limits.

Tourists Abducted in J & K

488. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAGHAVJI: SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether five foreign tourists have been abducted from Pahalgam, J & K State, in July, 1995;

(b) if so, under what circumstances these foreign tourists were abducted and what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any demand from the militants for the release of these foreign tourists and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what efforts have so far been made to trace and get these foreign tourists rescued; and

(e) what security measures were taken or are proposed to be taken by Government for the safety and protection of tourists visiting Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Six foreign nationals (2 Americans, 2 British, 1 German and 1 Norweigan) were kidnapped by militants of 'Al-Faran' Outfit from Pahalgam, District Anantnag on 4-7-95 and 8-7-95. Out of them, one American national escaped from the militants' custody while the rest are still captive.

(c) The Al-Faran group has demanded the release of 22 arrested militants and some foreign mercenaries. They included one militant who is already on bail.

(d) A heavy contingent of security forces has been deployed to trace the kidnapped foreigners taking, however, all necessary precautions to ensure that the safety of the hostages is not jeopardised.

(e) The areas frequented by the tourists are being provided area security cover. Patrolling in the sensitive areas as also tourist resorts in the valley has been intensified and pickets manned by security forces have been established.

Enhancement in the Contribution rates of C6HS Beneficiaries

489. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2711 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the percentage of total annual cost of the scheme, the contributions from beneficiaries constituted before and after revision and raising of the rates, and

(b) whether Government have also raised the maximum amount of the cost of pacemakers and hearing aids provided to beneficiaries on proper medical advice,